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Senate

(Legislative day of Monday, March 7, 2022)

The Senate met at 10:30 a.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the Honorable TAMMY BALDWIN, a Senator from the State of Wisconsin.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, Your majestic Name fills the Earth. Nature testifies to Your might, wisdom, and love. Lord, Your glory is higher than the Heavens.

As our lawmakers depend upon Your strength to silence the enemies of freedom, deliver us all from evil. Defend the righteous who cry to You even in the night seasons. Send Your angels to protect those who stand up against the fury of their enemies. Arise, O Lord. Wake up, and bring justice to our Nation and world.

We pray in Your powerful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, March 8, 2022.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable TAMMY BALDWIN, a Senator from the State of Wisconsin, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Ms. BALDWIN thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

POSTAL SERVICE REFORM ACT OF 2022—Resumed

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3076) to provide stability to and enhance the services of the United States Postal Service, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Schumer (for Peters) amendment No. 4955, to modify the deadline for the initial report on the operations and financial condition of the United States Postal Service.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

EMMETT TILL ANTILYNCHING ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, in 1922, the first robust antilynching bill was successfully passed by the House of Representatives. Once it came to the Senate, a block of Southern segregationists mounted a filibuster to kill it in its tracks.

Over the decades, similar bills met similar fates. Throughout the 20th century, scores of antilynching bills were

introduced, only to be promptly buried into obscurity. In 2018, Congress came closer than ever to finally passing antilynching legislation before it was thwarted at the eleventh hour.

But last night, finally—finally—after more than 200 failed attempts to declare lynching a Federal crime, the Senate succeeded in taking long, overdue action by passing the Emmett Till Antilynching Act.

Hallelujah. Congress has finally declared lynching a Federal crime, as it should have done more than a century ago. That it took so long is a permanent, bitter stain on American history; but, finally, a century's worth of efforts has now paid off.

To say this is a historic accomplishment is impossibly inadequate. Generations of civil rights leaders and advocates dedicated their lives to getting Congress to recognize the humane, obvious truth: that lynching was an intolerable injustice inflicted primarily on disenfranchised Black Americans.

Thousands upon thousands of Black Americans have been victims of lynch mobs across the country, and indifferent States have rarely responded, if ever. Many of the sworn officers of these States and localities not only ignored but often participated when these atrocities occurred.

Despicable. Horrible. America should be so ashamed of this chapter in her history. And while no single congressional action can fully erase the injustices committed against victims of lynching, last night was an important step in the never-ending work of perfecting our Union. Only by confronting the darkest elements of our history can we make straight the path toward a brighter and more just future.

I want to really applaud Senator BOOKER. He has been diligent and hardworking and valiant in getting this to happen. He had a great partner in Senator SCOTT—bipartisan. And on the

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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